

An Overview of the Water Use Permitting Process

Tom Colios, Section Leader

Water Use Regulation Division

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sfwmd.gov

Permitting Authority



- **Florida Statutes- Chapter 373**
- **SFWMD Rules- Chapters 40E-1, 40E-2 & 40E-20**
- **Water Use Basis of Review**

“Three-Pronged” Test

- **Reasonable- Beneficial Use**
- **Not interfere with presently existing legal uses of water**
- **Consistent with the public interest**

Why you need a permit

- Establishes the right to use water
- Water is not a property right
- Provides certainty that your access to water is protected
- Not interfere with presently existing legal uses of water
- Protect the resources from harm

Using Water Without a Permit?

- **Permits for water use required by law**
- **Apply now, good faith effort to complete = permit without penalties**
- **Don't apply or apply but don't complete application = enforcement (fine) + permit still required**

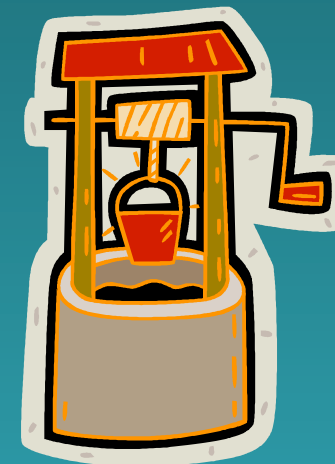
Exempt Uses

- Private Domestic Use
- Fire Protection
- Reclaimed Water
- Sea water
- No “Grandfathering”



Primary Use Classes

- **Public Water Supply**
- **Mining/Dewatering**
- **Industrial/ Commercial**
- **Irrigation**
 - **Agricultural**
 - **Nursery**
 - **Golf Course**
 - **Landscape**



Source Classification

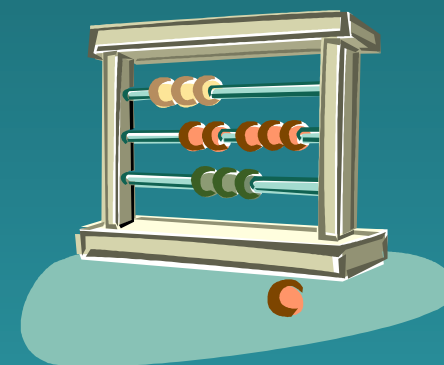
- **Permit all Sources**
 - **Ground Water**
 - **Surface Water**
- **Fresh vs Saline Water**
 - **Saline > 250 mg/L Chlorides**
- **Exempt Sources**
 - **Seawater (>19,000 mg/L)**
 - **Reclaimed Water**

Well Construction vs. Water Use

- **Well Construction Permit required for drilling all wells (program delegated to county Health Dept)**
- **Water Use Permit required for use from any size and any number of withdrawal facilities**

Irrigation Demand Calculation

- **Blaney-Criddle Equation**
 - **Effective Rainfall (1-in-10)**
 - **Soil Type**
 - **Crop**
 - **Irrigated Acreage**
 - **Irrigation System Efficiency**



Three Permit Types (Irrigation)

- **Minor General Permit**
 - Use less than 100,000 GPD or approximately <17 acres irrigated
 - Up to a 20 year permit duration
- **Major General Permit**
 - Use between 100,000 & 500,000 GPD or approximately 17 to 90 acres irrigated
 - Additional reporting requirements
 - 5 year duration for new uses
 - Up to 20 year duration for renewals

Three Permit Types (cont'd)

- **Individual Permit**
 - **Use greater than 500,000 GPD**
 - **Additional reporting requirements**
 - **5 year duration for new uses**
 - **Up to 20 year duration for renewals**
 - **Requires Executive Director approval**

Application Processing Fees Irrigation Use Class

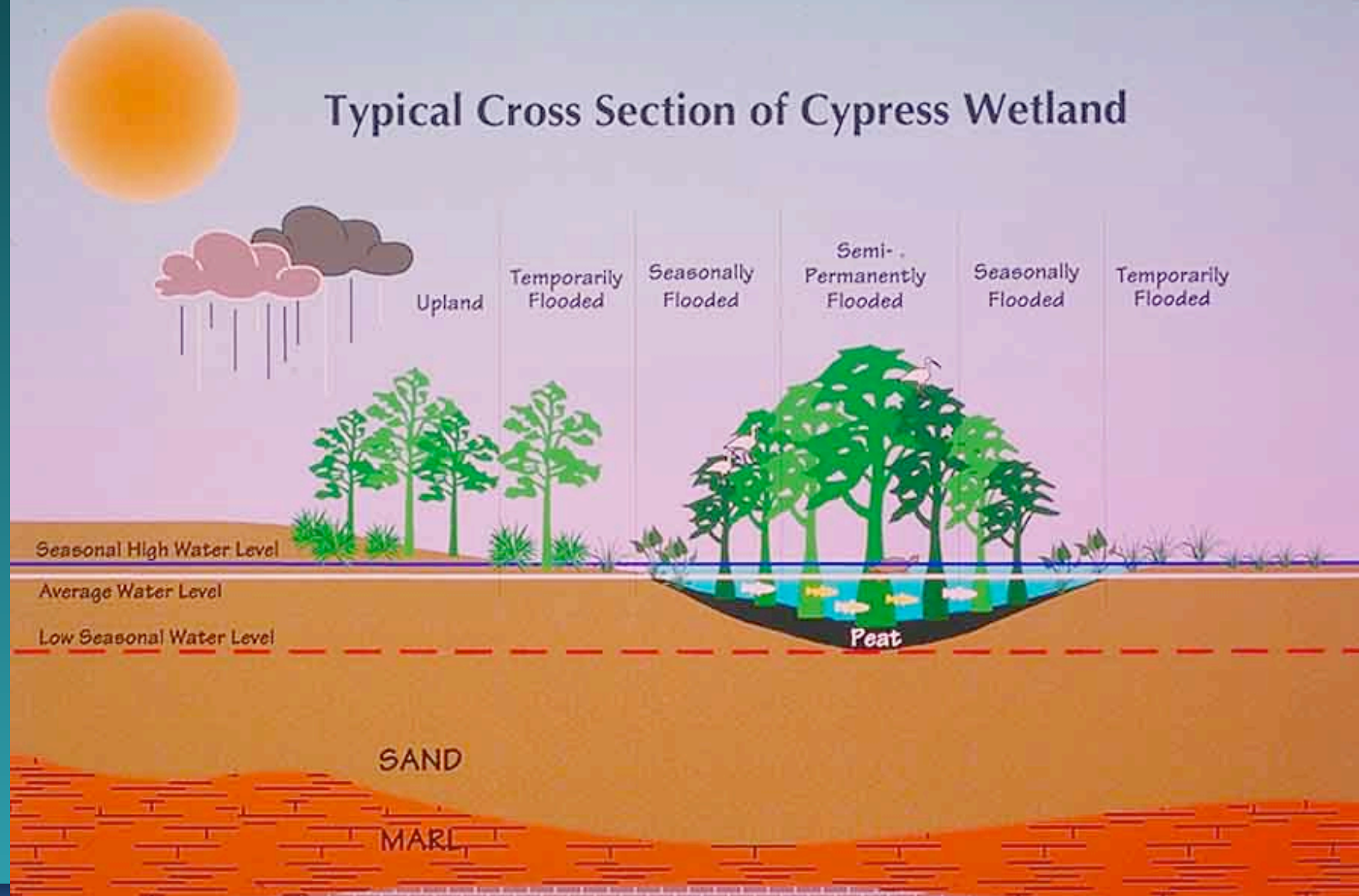


- **Minor General Permit - \$350**
- **Major General Permit - \$1,000**
- **Individual Permit (5 yr) - \$1,000**
- **Individual Permit (20 yr):**
 - **Max month 15-30 mg - \$1,600**
 - **Max month 30-300 mg - \$3,400**
 - **Max month >300 mg - \$5,600**

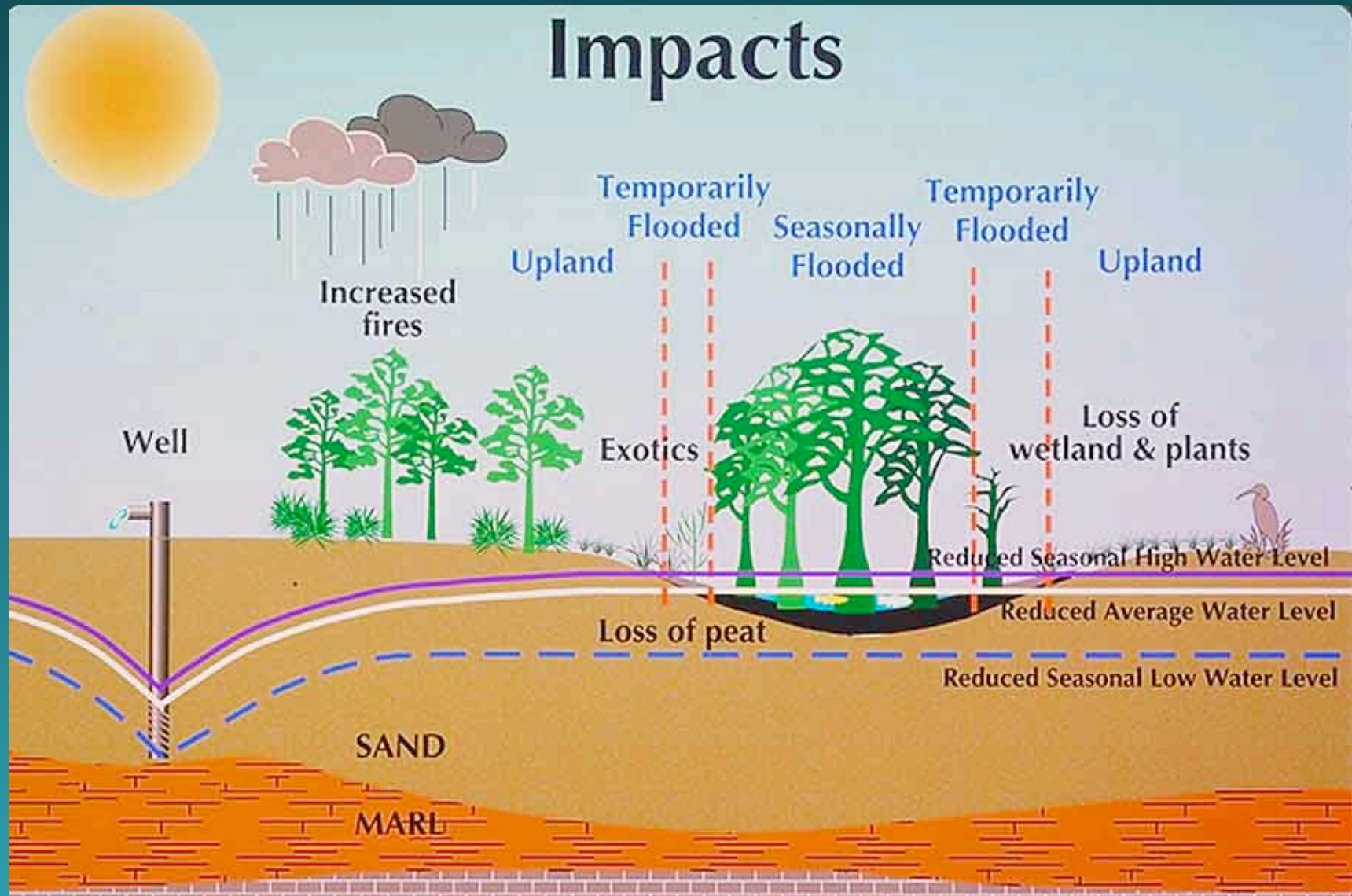
Water Supply

- **Impact Analysis**
 - **Water Resource Availability**
 - **Existing Legal Users**
 - **Existing Domestic Users**
 - **Saline Intrusion/Upconing**
 - **Wetland Environments**
 - **Contamination Movement**
 - **Minimum Flows and Levels**

Typical Cross Section of Cypress Wetland



Impacts



Other Information

- **Site Map with pumping facilities**
- **Specific facility information**
- **Legal Control**
 - **deed, tax record, lease agreement**
- **Major General Permits**
 - **Reclaimed Water Availability**
 - **Water Use Accounting**
- **Application Processing Fee**

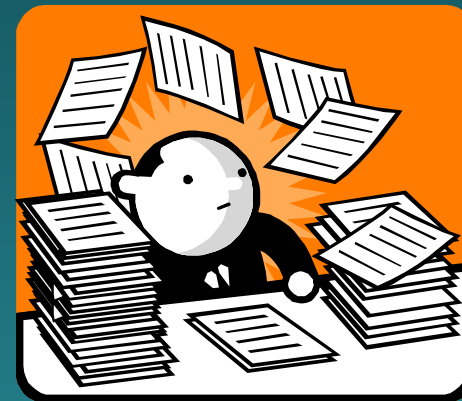
Processing Timeframes



- Initial 30 day review for completeness
- Send letter requesting information if incomplete
- 60 days after complete application for General Permits
- 90 days after complete application for Individual Permits to GB

Permit

- **Allocation**
 - **Annual**
 - **Maximum Month**
- **Duration**
- **Withdrawal Facilities**
- **Limiting Conditions**



Limiting Conditions

- **Standard**
- **Special**
 - **Irrigation Hours**
 - **Water Use Accounting**
 - **Saline Water Monitoring**
 - **Wetland Monitoring**
 - **5-year Compliance reports**

Questions & Answers

- **Web page = sfwmd.gov**
 - **Businesses**
 - **Permits**
 - **Consumptive Water Use Permits**
 - **Application forms & fees**
 - **Rules & Criteria**

Reasonable - Beneficial

- **The use of water in such quantity as is necessary for economic and efficient utilization for a purpose and in the manner which is both reasonable and consistent with the public interest.**

ERP/WU Concurrency

■ WU Basis of Review, Section 1.4:

“If a new or modified surface water management (construction) or environmental resource (construction) permit is required in conjunction with the proposed water use, the water use permit may only be issued concurrently with the applicable surface water management (construction) or environmental resource (construction) permit or permit modification.”

ERP/WU Concurrency

- **ERP Basis of Review, Section 3.2(b):**

“For environmental resource permits, if on-site consumptive water use withdrawals are also proposed for which a District water use permit is required, the environmental resource and water use permits must be processed simultaneously.”